GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:764
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Ground Water
Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to treat the ground water as a National property;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether there is any law in place to regulate the use of ground water;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if not, whether there is any proposal to bring any law this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Government of India under National Water Policy, 2012 has laid down certain basic principle to govern public policies on water resources. As per these basic principles, "water needs to be managed as a common pool community resource held by the State, under public trust doctrine, to achieve food security, support livelihood, and ensure equitable and sustainable development for all."

(c) to (e) Water being a state subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to make suitable legislation to regulate utilization of ground water.

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. CGWA is regulating ground water withdrawal by industries/infrastructure/mining projects in "Non-Notified" areas for which guidelines/criteria have been framed and circulated in public domain.

Further, Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill.

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